

***RECENZJE, OMÓWIENIA, SPRAWOZDANIA,
KOMUNIKATY***

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**Predicates of Gratification in English and Polish.
A Semantic Syntactic Perspective
Katarzyna Góra: *Predicates of Gratification
in English and Polish. A Semantic Syntactic
Perspective. Studies in Linguistics,
Anglophone Literatures and Cultures.*
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**Predykaty gratyfikacji w języku angielskim i polskim.
Semantyczna perspektywa składniowa
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In writing this book Katarzyna Góra systematically plots a course from theory to practice by investigating the relationship between semantic concepts and their realisation in syntactic structures and how to more properly apply linguistics to the real world.

The idea presented, that Lexicographical studies need a more detailed and coherent approach to elucidating phenomena of conceptual translation into language, is achieved here through a methodical examination of what is a complex area of investigation.

A wide-ranging technical investigation into how semantics is reflected in the elements of syntactic structures. The familiar premise based on the dependence of concepts and their related combinatorial syntactic structures is concerned with issues related to Cognitive Linguistics, Generative Grammar, Case Grammar and Valence Theory placing the study on a line that runs from Chomsky (1957) through Langacker and Lakoff and resonates with

the Polish School of Semantic Syntax, centred around the work of Karolak (1984), Kiklewicz (2017), Korytkowska (2004) and Mazurkiewicz-Sułkowska (2008).

This theme of a more comprehensive analytical framing carries through to the application and importance of rigour through logic, in the study of linguistic phenomena as proposed by Davidson (1967). Indeed, Góra agrees with Jackendoff (1972) that linguistics needs to be seen for the technical and exacting field that it is. Crucially, it is about being better able to find patterns that more clearly explain the relationship between structure and function.

An empirically driven corpus research using contemporary American, British and Polish sources in a methodologically set out explanation of syntactic structures. It presents an extensive exploration of observable phenomena in a single semantic category that rightly lends itself to the use of logic and a concomitant calculus which does the ground work in establishing a strong foundation for a measurable, contrastive analysis.

Chapter and sub headings of the book engage with longstanding and contemporary thinking around the inherent properties of lexical units by challenging the extent to which such ideas have been investigated. This is done while aiding the reader in navigating the complexity of linguistic definition, meaning and interpretation.

The book works on the presumption that a more refined empirical research approach has to be developed in order to shed light on the relationship between concept and form and in turn become widely adopted. Góra's work indeed provides evidence of cross language comparison that gets us closer to tackling the problems of effective translation from one language to another.

It is in the depth and breadth of her approach and analysis of her findings that allows the strength of theories surrounding linguistic competence and linguistic expression, contained in ideas such as the semantics of agency as put forward by Davidson (1980), to be tested.

Employing a more thorough logical interpretation of form, in speech action and event data, enables Góra to push on from the considerable work done in what has been a somewhat maligned area of linguistic investigation. She more than adequately investigates associated phenomena which works towards reducing the theoretical empirical gap which is at the heart of what she is trying to achieve. Throughout the book Góra uncovers evidence that highlights the deficiency in empirical underpinning that linguistic investigation suffers from.

Using Polanski's *Syntactic-Generative Dictionary* (1993) as a sample of the book's source material, Góra starts to build her case by presenting one of many examples that identifies a relationship between grammar

and the semantic properties of lexical units but critically, has no follow up investigation as to the nature of that relationship.

The conviction that she is on to something is backed up with reference to other linguists who look for a pragmatic way forward such as Filmore (1971), who shares her belief that a more layered approach to corpus linguistics is needed.

But it is in the third chapter of the book and the use of diathesis in exploring the patterns in English and Polish sentences, that is pivotal in putting her ideas to the test. Although nuanced in its definition by scholars this well-known tool for investigation essentially coalesces around the attempt to understand possible alternate combinations of words in a variety of syntactic expressions.

By observing verbs and the role discrete nominal groups play within propositional semantic configurations, presented in the light of diathesis, together with predicate calculus in the positioning of syntactic elements, she proves her concept.

It is in applying the acid test of productivity that there is cross checking of target structures to see how functional syntactic systems relate to the behaviour of verbs and their distribution. Such testing confirms whether the realisation of logical dependent relations, within propositional structures, is reliant on the interaction of content, meaning and principles of grammar.

Góra's approach succeeds in establishing the validity of logical forms for investigation in a linguistic context and makes a solid contribution to the improvement of analytical framing. The book is an insightful study which draws the reader into a process of analysis aiming to refine and improve methods of investigation concerned with mapping concepts across languages in order to determine more precisely what is being expressed.

As one would expect the volume of information contained within the book is considerable yet it is an accessible read detailing claims that linguistics is a bona-fide branch of empirical research. Góra joins those, whose voices call for a linguistic flag to be firmly planted in the field of science by taking on the responsibility of justifying its right to be regarded as a demanding discipline.

The density of the information in this book could be off putting to the casual user and at times seems to go against the contention of the work, that of greater clarity in study, yet this is what determines its worth as a book and piece of scholarship.

A layman's knowledge of language or linguistics will not be enough for the average reader to appreciate this book. Students well versed in linguistic

topics will find it a useful if challenging work that will build on their understanding by questioning what they know and how they approach analysis.

The book is more suited to academics who want a pragmatic approach that maps theory onto practice as it attempts to reduce what she sees as a gap between theory and empirical research in the investigation of language.

The strength of this book is in its value as a primer for further research as it asks relevant questions about mechanism we use to communicate and encourages exploration of such areas as semantic equivalence across languages, the logic of semantics and cognitive semantics.

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